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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 A-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 ABF-01 ST-01

/025 W
---------- 107416
O 030925Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7036

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LIMDIS

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ATRN AEMR, AFSP
SUBJECT: PACKING AND AIR TRANSPORT TO SAFE HAVEN OF HHE

1. LOOTING OF ABANDONED APARTMENTS HAS BECOME QUOTE THE ORDER OF THE DAY UNQUOTE OF THE NUMEROUS FACTIONS INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING. TWO APARTMENTS IN BUILDING NEAR THE HOTEL AREA HAVE BEEN LOOTED AND RANSACKED AS NEAR AS EMBASSY CAN DETERMINE AND REPORTS OF SIMILAR HAPPENINGS AMONG BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND LEBANESE CITIZENS ARE GROWING IN NUMBER. IT WOULD THERE FORE, SEEM APPROPRIATE THAT THE EMBASSY TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES IT CAN TO PROTECT OUR INDIVUDUALS PERSONAL POSSESSIONS AND WE THEREFORE REQUEST AUTHORITY TO DO THE FOLLOWING:
A. A PACKERS CAN BE FOUND AND PUT TO WORK, HAVE HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS OF FAMILIES WHO HAVE DEPARTED POST, FOR SAFE HAVEN, INCLUDING THE EMPLOYEES, PACKED AND AIR LIFTED TO ATHENS FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE.
B. THE SAME ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN WITH PERSONNEL WHO REMAIN AT POST BUT WHOSE APARTMENTS HAVE HAD TO BE VACATED DUE TO LYING IN OR NEAR DNAGER ZONES. THIS WOULD TAKE LONGER TO ACCOMPLISH FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, I.E. THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE A LONGER LULL IN THE FIGHTING.
C. FOR PERSONNEL WHO WILL BE PART OF THE RESIDUAL STAFF AND REMAIN IN THEIR APARTMENTS, THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPTION OF HAVING THEIR EFFCTS AIRLIFTED TO ATHENS AS WELL IN THE EVENT THE FIGHTING ZONES MOVES TO THEIR AREAS AND THEY HAVE TO ABANDON
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THEIR APARTMENTS.

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2. THE MILITARY HAVE UNILATERALLY REQUESTED SIMILAR AUTHORITY FOR THEIR PEOPLE, BUT IN THEIR CADE HAVE, SPECIFIED USE OF MAC AIRCRAFT. IN THE CASE OF THE EMBASSY, THE AIRLIFT WOULD OF COURSE, BE BY COMMERCIAL MEANS.

3. THE ABOVE PROPOSAL IS ALL BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE LOCAL TRANSPORT COMPANIES THE EMBASSY NORMALLY DEALS WITH WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE PACKERS. ONE COMPANY HAS WISELY EXTRACTED A NUMBER OF THEIR PACKERS FROM TROUBLED AREAS AND IS KEEPING THEM IN HOTELS FOR USE IN SUCH EXERCISES. NEVER THELESS, THE SIZE OF THE EMBASSY STAFF ALONE WILL BE A TREMENDOUS BURDEN ON THE STORAGE COMPANIES. PRIORITIES WILL, THEREFORE HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED AND THE PACKING CAREFULLY CONTROLLED TO MAKE SURE IT BENEFITS THOSE WITH MOST URGENT NEED, BUT THE PROGRAM WOULD BASICALLY BE AS OUTLINED IN PARA 1 ABOVE.

4. THE DEPARTMENT'S SYMPATHETIC APPROVAL AND PROMPT TELE-GRAPHIC RELY TO THIS PROPOSAL WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. ALTHOUGH UNNECESSARY, THE EMBASSY WILL CLOSE WITH THE STATMENT THAT AIRLIFT RPT AIRLIFT IS THE ONLY VIABLE MEANS OF TRANSPORTING HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS TO AND FROM BEIRUT AT THIS TIME.
GODLEY

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